

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of January 17, 2008, in which claims 15-18 were indicated to be allowable, while claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Koike (U.S. 6,177,207) and claims 9-11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hoshi et al. (U.S. 6,025,978). Claims 6 and 12 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to one or more non-elected species.

Attorney for Applicant conducted an interview with Examiner Renner on Friday, March 14, 2008. In the interview, attorney for Applicant presented proposed amendments to independent claims 1, 9, and 21 limiting each claim to include a magnetic element spaced (or separated) from **and having a greater thickness than** the perpendicular writing main pole. Examiner Renner acknowledged that the proposed amendments overcome the rejections from the Office Action based on the prior art of record. However, Examiner Renner stated that because the magnetic element in the amended claims is broader than the previously allowed return pole in claim 15, the amendments would raise new issues. In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claims 1-14 and 21-23 are canceled without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of the claims in a continuing application. The present application containing claims 15-18 is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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